

Remarks

Applicant acknowledges claims 19, 21, and 22 are allowed. Applicant further amended claim 20 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions in the Final Office Action and should also be allowed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 16 and 18 as being anticipated under 35 USC § 102 by U.S. Patent No. 6568104 to Liu. Applicant submits the foregoing amendments and following remarks overcome the rejections.

Claims 1 and 11 require that the anchoring end and lace end of the clasp be from a single continuous length of material. Liu does not disclose that the fastener 30' be made of a single continuous length of material. In fact, figure 10 shows fastener 30' being of multiple pieces that may be integrally attached to one another. However, the integrally attached pieces are not from a single continuous length of material. Therefore, the rejections with respect to Liu should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 as being obvious under 35 USC § 103. Applicant respectfully submits the combination of Liu and 5379496 "(Krauss)" is not proper in a rejection under 35 USC § 103 because the references are from different fields of endeavor. In order for references to be properly combined in a rejection under 35 USC § 103, there must be some teaching or suggestion in one reference to be combined with the other. Liu relates to a fastener for facilitating tying shoes. Krauss relates to a buckle for joining two cords together. There is no mention anywhere in Krauss to apply the cylinder to a shoe. Without the requisite teaching or suggestion in Krauss to be combined with a shoe, or in Liu to be combined with a buckle for connecting cords, there is no motivation for one skilled in the art to make the suggested combination. Therefore, the rejection to claim 5 should be withdrawn.

Moreover, even if Liu was combined with Krauss, there is no teaching or suggestion to use Krauss' cylinder as the receiver for the fastener 30' of Liu. There is no hint as to where to apply Krauss' cylinder anywhere in the invention of Liu. A combination of Krauss and Liu may result in the cylinder being used as a tie for the shoelaces of Liu since Krauss joins two cords, which may be shoelaces. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Krauss and Liu would not arrive at Applicant's claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,



Gene S. Winter, Registration No. 28,352
David Chen, Registration No. 46,613
Attorneys for Applicant
ST.ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC
986 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905-5619
203 324-6155